

To: Sylvia Hamilton via email

Date: August 15, 2005

Subject: **August 5, 2005 Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Perchlorate Community Advisory Group was held at the San Martin Lions Club, 12415 Murphy Avenue, San Martin, on August 5, 2005 at 2 pm.

I. **Pledge:** The Chair, Ms. Sylvia Hamilton, led the Pledge

II. **Administrative Items**

- A. Introductions
- B. Attendee Sign-in sheets
- C. No additional agenda items
- D. June 30th meeting minutes approved as written
- E. Terms of Service – Membership stays same.

III. **Presentations/ Discussion Topics**

A. ***Legislative Update:***

- 1. Mr. Craig O'Donnell reported that the State Legislature is currently in recess so there is no new information regarding the replacement water bill. Assemblymen Laird would like the bill to be passed as soon as possible. The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is sponsoring the bill in hopes that it will expedite the process of signing it into law.
- 2. Mr. Weaver, who is a representative of Congressman Richard Pombo, announced today that the House passed a bill will secures funding for groundwater remediation in Santa Clara County.

B. ***Water District Federal Grants & Project Planning Update (Thomas Mohr):*** Congressmen Pombo and others have worked hard so that funding is available for the perchlorate clean-up in South County. Currently, there is more than 2 million dollars available to the SCVWD to fund projects which deal specifically with perchlorate contamination. Water supply reliability is an important issue in southern Santa Clara County because people living in this area get all of their water from groundwater. Therefore, contaminated groundwater is a big concern. The first batch of projects has been applied for and is set to go through a lengthy review process by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The first application includes a background and source investigation, as well as a feasibility study of using groundwater

recharge to manage groundwater contamination. There are additional funds and projects but those applications are currently being developed.

Q: Is the forensic research incorporated into the background and source study?

A: Yes

C. *Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Update (David Athey):*

1. **Alternative Water Supply CAO:** Mr. Athey reported that Olin plans to test every well that is receiving bottled water for 4 new quarters. This is in response to the State Water Board's ruling that replacement water will only be supplied to wells owners with contamination levels above 6 ppb. Olin is set to test 600 wells regardless of the previous concentration level. In addition, wells with really low contamination levels that are not receiving bottled water are still monitored in compliance with the long-term clean-up CAO.
2. **Ion Exchange Systems:** Currently 4 systems are installed and 3 are in progress. In the next few months, The Regional Board is set to discuss the ix systems and how to speed up the process of certification.
3. **Llagas Subbasin Monitoring Plan:** The Subbasin plan is moving forward; the RB issued condition approval for MW-16, located just south of Tennant Avenue, a week ago. Olin also plans to start drilling in Gilroy and work their way north.
4. **Llagas Subbasin Characterization Plan:** It should be available next Friday.
5. **Soil Clean Up:** Is set to be up and running by September 2005.
6. **Northeast Perchlorate Investigation Progress:** The well installations which will be used to monitor the Northeastern flow of perchlorate are complete. However, Olin has yet to submit their report as to the status of work. The status report and the characterization plan are both over due.

Mayor Dennis Kennedy recommended writing a letter to the RB's executive officer to take action against Olin for being late in submitting well test results. The letter is intended to show that the public is concerned about the situation.

Mr. Athey informed the committee that they had received a letter from Olin on August 3, 2005 which summarized each test the Water Board ordered and the current status. He also emphasized that there are reasons for Olin's delay in submitting the report. Challenges that Olin face includes getting access agreements from well owners, drilling can

take longer than expected, and other small technical and logistical reasons. Judging from the status report they seem to be close to finishing the work.

Ms. Hamilton suggested writing the letter to the executive officer of the RB but holding on to it for another week, which will give Olin more time to submit their report.

Mayor Kennedy emphasized being firm and not letting Olin keep missing deadlines. He proposed to use this instance about missing deadlines and submitting a general letter that the community is concerned.

7. **Standard Fusee Responsibility Letter:** The Water Board which has been involved in a lawsuit regarding the perchlorate case, recently released Standard Fusee from the original clean-up orders. Standard Fusee will not be held monetarily liable from this point forward. As a result, Olin is now solely responsible for the site and clean up efforts.

IV. Additional Topics

- A. ***Groundwater Guardian (Tracy Hemmeter & Zohra Karimi):*** The last application was submitted in February 2005. The group plans to increase their outreach efforts through the media and through direct contact with the community. The annual report is to be submitted at the end of the month. If anyone has any outreach ideas, please let us know. Groundwater Guardian is also planning to make a PCAG brochure which includes basic information and will be distributed to community members. The brochure includes contact information for the agency members involved in the clean up efforts and important information about PCAG and what it hopes to accomplish. Other ideas included setting up a meeting in the Morgan Hill Community Center so that the meeting can be video taped. In addition, having the meeting in a different place will attract different people from the various communities. Some churches will also let you make announcements. Sign-boards on San Martin Avenue draw a lot of attention so PCAG should consider putting one up. Lastly, The San Martin Water District sends out monthly bills and information can be put on the water bills as well.

V. **Next Meeting** – Friday, September 2nd, 2005 (2 - 4 pm)

VI. Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Zohra Karimi